

2005

Planning & Development Department

In Fiscal Year 2005, the Office of Planning and Development prepared the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application and the City received a grant in the amount of \$618,000. The Leominster CDBG program supports projects in the following categories: code enforcement, economic development, housing, public facilities, and public services. The main goal of the program is to improve the quality of life for all the citizens in Leominster by providing for physical, economic, and public service projects that primarily revitalize the core area of the City. The following projects were undertaken during this fiscal year of the program:



Code Enforcement

The CDBG program funded the position of a Code Enforcement Officer to perform housing code inspections in the core area. In Year 30, the Inspector conducted inspections for 1,181 households. The proposed accomplishment for this activity was 1000 inspections. This individual also conducted 14 lead determinations, which resulted in 26 housing units being deleaded. The proposed accomplishment was 25 lead determinations. A total of 1,287 State Sanitary Code violations were corrected as a result of these inspections. The proposed accomplishment for this was 1,500 corrected violations.

Economic Development

The City of Leominster provided funding for an Economic Development Coordinator position. This person worked with the Industrial Development Commission and the North Central Chamber of Commerce to market the City to new companies looking to relocate or start their businesses, and with local existing companies for retention and expansion purposes. Through technical assistance and marketing the City was successful in retaining and creating low/mod jobs for residents of Leominster.



In Year 30, the Coordinator provided technical assistance to forty-three (43) businesses to retain and create jobs for residents in the City of Leominster. Several of these businesses underwent capital expansions, which generated over \$13,000,000 in private investment. Through these projects, the City of Leominster has assisted with the retention of 950 jobs and the creation of over 175 jobs with 155 jobs being low/mod income range. The 175 jobs generated over \$3,700,000 in salaries while the 155 low/mod income jobs generated over \$2,800,000 in salaries.

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The Coordinator is project manager for the nearly completed Orchard Hill Industrial Park project, consisting of 125 acres of developable industrial land to be developed in the next few years. The resulting development will create and estimates 900 low / mod jobs within the next ten years as a result of the direct impact this project has on the area. The Coordinator has also worked on the continued planning of the revitalization program in the core area, a project which includes streetscape design, park revitalization, and commercial building improvements.

Housing

The Leominster CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Program received \$219,000 in Year 30. This appropriation covered salary and expenses for a Housing Rehabilitation Specialist as well as expenses relating to the rehabilitation of various housing units. In addition, approximately \$50,000 in private funds and \$150,000 in HOME funds were used for the projects. The CDBG funds supported projects that involved a wide range of household sizes while the HOME funds were utilized for smaller sized households.

As it does every year, the Housing Rehabilitation Program serves extremely low and low-moderate-income individuals living in rental or owner-occupied housing units in the City. In Year 30, twenty-one (21) housing units were rehabilitated.

The majority of the housing rehabilitation projects in Year 30 benefited households in rental units in Leominster. The work performed in these units involved the repair or replacement of bathrooms, ceilings, doors, heating systems, sprinkler systems, and windows.

Of the owner-occupied units that received housing rehabilitation in Year 30, three (3) contained extremely low-income households, nine (9) contained a moderate-income household, and the remainder were filled with low-income households. The most popular type of work performed in owner-occupied units during Year 30 was the replacement of windows, siding, and roofs in which this type of work occurred in fifty (50%) of the units. Other types of works performed in these units included the replacement of bathrooms, a kitchen, plumbing, a sewer line and a water line.

Public Facilities & Improvements

Also in Year 30, the Leominster CDBG program funded two public facility projects. The "Core Area Playground Project" was designed to upgrade the safety of the playground equipment at the Johnson Street Playground. The second project, "The Core Area Paving Project" was set-up to replace the paving on three (3) Core Area Streets. (Ridge Street, Wells Court, and Whitney Terrace) These projects served as an area benefit project as the improvements / upgrades occurred in within the City's low-mod "Core Area".

Public Services (Services provided to youths, senior citizens, high risk juveniles, homeless persons, persons at risk of being homeless, and disabled persons) Continued

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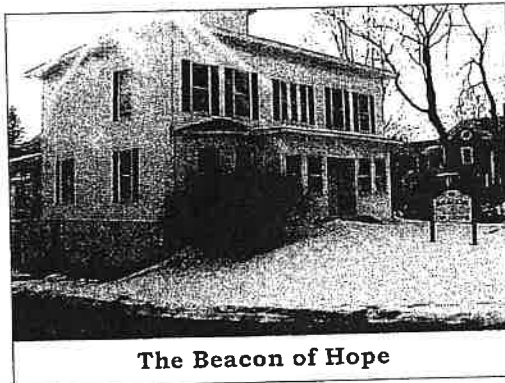
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Battered Women's Resources: This agency provided safe shelter to battered women and their children. While in shelter, the women receive counseling, case management, life skills training, & advocacy.

Accomplishments: During Year 30, one hundred (100) people were proposed to be served and one hundred-ten (110) people actually received emergency services. The services needed most by these clients fell into the following categories: case management, children's educational (early intervention, head start, SPED), children's mental health (counseling, psychiatrist, evaluation), children's recreational activities, educational (GED, ESL, College), housing activities (workshop, contacts with housing providers), legal aid, mental health (counseling, psychiatrist, evaluation), substance abuse (detox, urine screening, counseling, AA, Al Anon), and women & children's medical services (ER, MD, or DDS).

Beacon of Hope: This organization provided respite care for mentally challenged adults. **Accomplishments:** During Year 30, forty-five (45) persons were proposed to be served by this program and twenty-four (24) persons received respite care.



The Beacon of Hope

Community Healthlink: This project provides mental health treatment to individuals without a healthcare provider.

Accomplishments: In Year 30, Community Healthlink served Three hundred and eighteen (318) individuals. The proposed figure to be served was fifty (50).

Leominster Mayor's Office - Energy Assistance Program

The purpose and mission of the Energy Assistance Program is to allow the City of Leominster Mayor's Office the opportunity to help low to moderate income families with oil / fuel during the winter months.

Accomplishments: Twelve (12) families participated in the Mayor's Energy Assistance Program.

Leominster Recreation Department - Financial Assistance for Summer Youth Recreational Program: This program was designed to provide funding for up to nine (9) low to moderate-income eligible youth between the ages of 6-12 to participate in future recreational programs where fees are applied.

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Accomplishments: In Year 30, twenty-two (22) children received financial assistance from the program. This figure exceeded the proposed number of seven (7).

Leominster Housing Authority – Allencrest Learning Center: The Allencrest Learning Center Program allows for low-moderate income children living in the Allencrest Apartment Complex to participate in a homework and tutoring assistance program after school. Instructors for the program are provided by the Leominster Public Schools.

Accomplishments: In Year 30, twenty-nine (29) children received assistance from the Allencrest Learning Center. This figure far exceeded the twelve (12) children that were proposed.

Leominster Mayor's Office on Neighborhoods Report Drug Traffickers Coupon: Through this program, a "Report Drug Traffickers in Your Neighborhood" coupon was placed in the local newspaper on five different occasions and coupon flyers were distributed through the Leominster Health Department, the East Side Neighborhood Association, the Riverside Village Apartments, Litchfield Terrace Apartments, Ginny's Thrift Shop & Food Pantry, and the Spanish American Center. This allowed people to report drug trafficking in their neighborhoods and remain anonymous.

Accomplishments: In Year 30, four (4) coupons were returned to the Mayor's Office reporting various suspected criminal activities.

Leominster Mayor's Office-(Boys & Girls Club of America): Program funding will be used for Rent and Utilities for the Leominster Boys & Girls Club. Additional funds will be used for programs taking place at the club.



Summer Youth Work Crew Hard at Work

Accomplishments: In Year 30 one hundred-eighty three (183) youth participated in various activities at the B&G Club. This figure greatly exceeded the proposed number of three hundred (300).

Leominster Mayor's Office-Summer Youth Program: This program utilized a six (6) person youth work crew and a supervisor for clean-up activities.

Accomplishments: In Year 30, Billy DiGregorio, Program Supervisor, and the crew, which included Amanda Perla, Michelle Evans, Jonathon Hernandez, Nicolas Pedreira, Jonathon Rodriguez, and Outhai Saengkheune six (6) low and moderate income youth, were hired to perform the following general clean-up duties in and around the core area:

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Removed Yard Waste from 36 Cotton Street
Picked-up trash along Erdman Way
Removed trash at Monument Square in Downtown
Extensively cleaned and weeded parking lot area at City Hall
Painted flower boxes to be used as decorative displays around the City
Removed trash under the Whalom Bridge
Cleaned islands at Dunkin Donuts and Route 12&117
Removed overgrown brush and trash from intersection of Spruce&Whitney and Mechanic Street
Comprehensive clean-up of Carter Park. (weed wacked and picked-up trash)
Picked-up trash and cut overgrown brush in parking lot on Mechanic Street across from Ginny's Thrift Shop.
Assisted DPW Forestry with the clean-up of downed trees after a severe rain and wind storm occurring on 7-27-05.
Cleaned Municipal Parking Garage in Downtown
Weeded, trimmed shrubs and mulched at Police Station
Removed trash and excess brush at Central Square Park
Provided clean-up of Monument Square prior to and after City planned vigil for automobile accident victims
Picked-up trash on both sides of Route 117 from Quality Auto to Transfer Station
Cleaned-up island at K-Mart on Merriam Avenue

Mayor's Office State Pool Fee Assistance: This Program is designed to provide financial assistance to low-income youth wishing to utilize the State pool on Viscoloid Avenue. Season passes are provided to individuals who cannot afford to pay the fee.

Accomplishments: In Year 30, Twenty-eight (28) individuals received financial assistance.

Montachusett Addiction Council: Provided assistance to low-moderate individuals battling substance abuse issues. This program assisted with educational programs as well as provided help with finding permanent and temporary housing.

Accomplishments: In Year 30, MAC provided an array of services to six hundred-eighty three (683) individuals. Proposed was six hundred-sixty (660).

Montachusett Home Care Corporation-Elder Safety Program: The MHCC Program is designed to address the health and safety concerns of the elder population i.e. fire safety etc.



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Accomplishmnts: In Year 30, the proposed figure to be served was five hundred (500). The actual figure of individuals receiving services was two hundred-sixty four (264).

Montachusett Interfaith Hospitality Network: The MIHN provides shelter and case management for homeless families of North Central Worcester County. The program assists with finding permanent housing and helping to establish financial stability.

Accomplishments: The program in Year 30 proposed to serve sixty (60) individuals. The actual number served was eighty-five (85).

Multi Service Center - For Your Health: The services rendered in the For Your Health program provided health screening and education services include recruitment of clients, individual risk assessment, blood pressure measurement, diabetes screening, nutrition education, vision & cataract screening, cholesterol screening, and breast cancer screening.

Accomplishments: While seventy-five (75) people were proposed to be served, five hundred-eight (508) Leominster residents were actually served in Year 30: Pat LaGrassa the Multi Service Center's Health Educators, performed the following activities as a part of this program:

In December, a free cholesterol and glucose screening was held for income eligible Leominster residents Four (4) residents participated in this program. All had normal Blood pressure and glucose levels. Two (2) had elevated (mild) cholesterol levels. Each participant was given a copy of "Caring For a Healthy Heart". This Booklet was prepared by Multi-Service staff and employees at Orchard Hills Athletic Club. In January, health screenings were provided at the following elderly housing Facilities. (Notre Dame, Sunset and Waterway) In addition, twenty-one (21) Leominster children were given vision screenings at the Bennett School Pre-school Program.

In February, a free cholesterol and glucose screening was held at the Multi-Service Center for income eligible residents of Leominster. Diet and exercise information was also provided. Elderly housing screenings were held at Lapierre and George Street facilities. In March, blood pressure screenings were held at the Multi-Service Center, the Waterway Apartments, Sunset Towers and Notre Dame Apartments. Vision screenings were held at Northwest Child Development Center for sixty-four (64) pre-schoolers eight (8) of them are in the Project Apples Program.

In April, a free cholesterol and glucose screening was held. Eight (8) residents attended two (2) with elevated levels. Clients were given information on low fat/diet and exercise. In addition, a bullying program called "Stop Picking on Me" was held for forty-five (45) second graders at Johnny Appleseed School. The program teaches children how to deal with cruelties and where to go for help. A health fair was held at Leominster High School. A table on "Skin Safety" was presented with information on the dangers of tanning, wearing sun screen. Information was also provided by the American Cancer Society.

In May, Students at Leominster High School (Seniors 400) viewed a Drinking & Driving presentation as part of a pre-prom assembly. The presentation entitled "Sean & Betsy, A story

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of Friendship and Loss" educated the Seniors as to the risks of driving drunk. Also, fifty (50) 2nd grade students at Johnny Appleseed School were provided a program on bullying called "Stop Picking on Me". Lastly, twenty-two (22) low-income residents attended the Multi-Service Center Breast Cancer Survivors Celebration.

In June, blood pressure and glucose screenings were held at the Multi-Service Center, LaPierre and George Street elderly housing facilities. Also in June, Hearing screenings were conducted by Dr. James Wicka, Director of the Audiology Department at Worcester State College and his students. Thirty (30) children were screened with eleven (11) being referred to their Primary Care Physicians for further evaluations. This program is conducted each Spring in twelve (12) area pre-schools. The Multi-Service Center plans and oversees all screenings with services provided by WSC.

Multi-Service Center- Project Youth: This Program is designed to assist low-moderate income youth to gain a GED, prepare a resume, and develop quality interview skills. The program will also provide transportation assistance to individuals without a vehicle.

Accomplishments: In Year 30, this program assisted nine (9) low-moderate income youth. The proposed figure was five (5).

Spanish American Center: The Information and Referral Outreach Worker provided services involving translations (written/verbal), advocacy, referrals, education, employment, food pantry, health information, home visits, legal information, outreach, social security information, and voter registration information to many persons in Year 29.

Accomplishments: The Outreach Worker served two hundred-fifty eight (258) households in Year 30. This program proposed to serve two hundred (200) households in Year 30.

Spanish American Center: This agency administered the program Ninos para Ninos (Kids for Kids) which is a multicultural after school program that teaches children ages 6 to 12 about community involvement and service.

Accomplishments: In Year 30, fifteen (15) youth were proposed to participate in this program, and that figure was serviced as fifteen (15) youth participated in this program. The programs Youth Coordinator, organized the following activities during the year:

During the month of November, the youth participated in our Thanksgiving basket food drive. The youth prepared 50 Thanksgiving baskets that were distributed to elders, and other community families. This event took three weeks to prepare. The youth promoted the event via flyers and telephone calls. A total of 20 (15 were Nino's participants, 5 others were youth volunteers) youth participated in the event.

During the month of December, the youth created a Christmas Dinner where Latino / Hispanic elders dined with local youths. The youth were responsible for the meal preparation, and for inviting the elders. A total of 15 youth participated in this event. A total of 8 elders also

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participated.

During the month of January, the youth celebrated Three Kings Day. All youth created beautiful greeting cards to celebrate this holiday. The cards were sent to elders of the 4th Street apartment building. A total of 15 youth participated in the event.

During the month of March, the youth participated in an event at the Beacon of Hope. Fifteen (15) youth made cards for the Beacon clients promoting friendship. Youth met after school to plan for future events in the community. The youth also helped in the clean-up of 1st and 2nd Street.

Additional Monthly Activities for the Nino's Para Nino's Program are on file and can be reviewed in the Leominster Office of Community Development.

Spanish American Center: Through the Summer Fun "Verano Alegre" program, which is a multi-cultural youth program that served youth between the ages of 6 and 14 for 5-6 weeks during the summer, low-income multi-cultural youth from Leominster are targeted, as these children are unable to participate in other summer programs that are more costly.

Accomplishments: During Year 30, fifty-seven (57) youth participated in the Summer Fun program.

Taylor Street Educational Services: This program is designed to offer low-moderate income students assistance with MCAS & SAT I Preparation.

Accomplishments: During Program Year 30, twelve (12) students received assistance through the program. The proposed number to be served was twelve (12)

Twin Cities CDC – Business Assistance Center: The Business Assistance Center provides low-moderate income individuals with a comprehensive approach starting and running a small business. This occurs through educational seminars, loan assistance, and follow-up after the business is operating.

Accomplishments: In Year 30, eight (8) individuals received assistance through the program. The proposed number was thirty-five (35).

Veterans Hero & Armistice Homesteads: These facilities provide a permanent housing environment servicing fifteen (15) homeless veterans in each home. In addition, these projects provide housing, food, emotional and clinical support to veterans who do not live in the homesteads permanently.

Accomplishments: In Year 30, thirty (30) individuals received services provided by the Veterans Hospice Homestead.

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Development Plans Submitted July 2003—June 2004

In Fiscal Year 2005, the City of Leominster Office of Planning and Development received a number of development plans. The aforementioned plans are listed below by which category they were submitted.

Approval Not Required Plans (ANR)

FILED	APPLICANT	ADDRESS	ENDORSED
8/19/2004	Castleland	Willard Street	8/19/2004
8/19/2004	Gagne	Searstown	8/19/2004
9/21/2004	Greenberg	Stagecoach	9/21/2004
9/21/2004	Liberty Rental	Lancaster Street	9/21/2004
9/21/2004	Southeast Realty	Johnson/Cowie St.	9/21/2004
10/5/2004	Lino Faiola	Buono & Grafton	10/5/2004
10/5/2004	David Ringer	Tisdale Avenue	10/5/2004
10/5/2004	Marrone	Marguerite Avenue	10/5/2004
10/15/2004	Schofield	Peterson Street	10/19/2004
10/15/2004	Almond	Cleveland Street	10/19/2004
10/15/2004	Gagne	Commercial/Mill	10/19/2004
11/4/2004	Crisci	Jytek Park	11/4/2004
11/4/2004	Ring & Hebert	Lawrence Street	11/4/2004
11/16/2004	Gagne	Mill/Williams/Bishop/Martin	11/16/2004
12/7/2004	Barry Perla	Mechanic & Middle	12/7/2004
12/7/2004	DiGeronimo/Johnny A.	Summit Street	12/7/2004
12/7/2004	Gitto/Albert	Royal Oaks Way	withdrawn
12/7/2004	Carl Corrinne	Johnson Street	denied
1/4/2005	Corrinne	Johnson Street	1/4/2005
1/4/2005	Boucher	Florence Street	1/4/2005
2/1/2005	Faiola	N. Main Street	2/1/2005
2/15/2005	DMC Hamilton LLC	Lanides Lane	2/15/2005
2/15/2005	Orchard Hill Park, LLC	west side-Orchard Hill Pk	2/15/2005
3/1/2005	Mural Realty	Sawtell/Montrose/Woodbury	withdrawn
3/1/2005	Derby Farm, LLC	East side-Orchard Hill Pk	3/1/2005
3/1/2005	Jenine Contois	Exchange/Birch	4/5/2005
3/1/2005	Mural Realty	Sawtell/Montrose/Woodbury	withdrawn
3/15/2005	Nancy Miller	Willard St.	3/15/2005
3/15/2005	Jeff Smith	50 Hamilton	3/15/2005
4/19/2005	Bock	46 Franklin Street	withdrawn
5/3/2005	Bock	46 Franklin Street	5/3/2005
6/7/2005	Phillips	1137 Main Street	6/7/2005
6/21/2005	Craven/Bailey	1141 Main St	6/21/2005
6/21/2005	DMC Hamilton LLC	Lanides Lane	6/21/2005

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DEFINITIVE PLANS

10/5/2004	Harrigan	Cottage Street	11/4/2004
10/5/2004	Phillips	Mary Avenue	3/15/2005
11/16/2004	Salovardos	1107/1113 Main St.	12/7/2004
1/4/2005	Whitney	Central	5/17/2005
2/1/2005	Lisciotti Development	Pioneer Park Ext.	4/19/2005
3/15/2005	Whirlwind	Ridgetop Village-Willard.	9/6/2005

SITE PLANS

4/5/2005	Lisciotti Development	Orchard Hill Park	7/19/2005
3/1/2005	375 Harvard Realty, LLC	375 Harvard Street	5/3/2005
4/5/2005	Wachusett Development	Hamilton Street	5/17/2005
4/19/2005	Williams St. Realty Tr.	Williams Street	7/19/2005
5/3/2005	Water Street Realty Tr.	123 First St	6/7/2005
5/17/2005	U-Haul	438 Harvard Street	6/7/2005
7/13/2004	Library	30 West Street	8/19/2004
7/13/2004	Leominster Village	Commercial Road	8/19/2004
8/19/2004	Hudson Savings Bank	Lancaster Street	9/7/2004
10/5/2004	Tanzio Realty	New Lancaster Road	10/19/2004
10/5/2004	Leominster Development	Adams Street	10/19/2004
11/16/2004	Lepine/Comcast	770 N. Main Street	12/7/2004

SPECIAL PERMITS

3/1/2005	Carter Hill Devel.	Cedar Road	4/5/2005
7/13/2004	Poirier	Hudson/Reed	9/7/2004
7/13/2004	Dellechiaie	Cleveland Street	9/7/2004
8/19/2004	Ringer	Manchester/Tisdale	9/7/2004
10/5/2004	Mitch Gill	Baker Street	denied
10/15/2004	Almond	Cleveland Street	11/16/2004

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